



New conservative target: Race as factor in COVID treatment

By TODD RICHMOND
Associated Press

MADISON, Wis. (AP) — Some conservatives are taking aim at policies that allow doctors to consider race as a risk factor when allocating scarce COVID-19 treatments, saying the protocols discriminate against white people. The wave of infections brought on by the omicron variant and a shortage of treatments have focused attention on the policies. Medical experts say the opposition is misleading. Health officials have long said there is a strong case for considering race as one of many risk factors in treatment decisions. And there is no evidence that race alone is being used to decide who gets medicine. The issue came to the fore-

front last week after Fox News host Tucker Carlson, former President Donald Trump and Republican Sen. Marco Rubio jumped on the policies. In recent days, conservative law firms have pressured a Missouri-based health care system, Minnesota and Utah to drop their protocols and sued New York state over allocation guidelines or scoring systems that include race as a risk factor.

JP Leider, a senior fellow in the Division of Health Policy and Management at the University of Minnesota who helped develop that state's allocation criteria, noted that prioritization has been going on for some time because there aren't enough treatments to go around.

Continued on next page



Nurse manager Edgar Ramirez checks on IV fluids while talking to a COVID-19 patient at Providence Holy Cross Medical Center in Los Angeles, Dec. 13, 2021.

Associated Press

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Continued from Front

"You have to pick who comes first," Leider said. "The problem is we have extremely conclusive evidence that (minorities) across the United States are having worse COVID outcomes compared to white folks. ... Sometimes it's acceptable to consider things like race and ethnicity when making decisions about when resources get allocated at a societal level."

Since the pandemic began, health care systems



Registered nurse Shelly Girardin, left, is illuminated by the glow of a computer monitor as Dr. Shane Wilson examines COVID-19 patient Neva Azinger inside Scotland County Hospital in Memphis, Mo., on Nov. 24, 2020.

Associated Press

and states have been grappling with how to best

distribute treatments. The problem has only grown worse as the omicron variant has packed hospitals with COVID-19 patients.

Considerable evidence suggests that COVID-19 has hit certain racial and ethnic groups harder than whites. Research shows that people of color are at a higher risk of severe illness, are more likely to be hospitalized and are dying from COVID-19 at younger ages.

Data also show that minorities have been missing out on treatments. Last week, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention published an analysis of 41 health care systems that found that Black, Asian and Hispanic patients are less likely than whites to receive outpatient antibody treatment. Omicron has rendered two widely available antibody treatments ineffective, leaving only one, which is in short supply.

The Food and Drug Administration has given health care providers guidance on when that treatment, sotrovimab, should be used, including a list of medical conditions that put patients at high risk of severe outcomes from COVID-19. The FDA's guidance says other factors such as race or ethnicity might also put patients at higher risk. The CDC's list of high-risk underlying conditions notes that age is the strongest risk factor for severe disease and lists more than a dozen medical conditions. It also suggests that doctors and nurses "carefully consider potential additional risks of COVID-19 illness for patients who are members of certain racial and ethnic minority groups."

State guidelines generally recommend that doctors give priority for the drugs to those at the highest risk, including cancer patients, transplant recipients and

people who have lung disease or are pregnant. Some states, including Wisconsin, have implemented policies that bar race as a factor, but others have allowed it.

St. Louis-based SSM Health, which serves patients in Illinois, Missouri, Oklahoma and Wisconsin, required patients to score 20 points on a risk calculator to qualify for COVID-19 antibody treatment. Non-whites automatically got seven points.

State health officials in Utah adopted a similar risk calculator that grants people two points if they're not white. Minnesota's health department guidelines automatically assigned two points to minorities. Four points was enough to qualify for treatment. New York state health officials' guidelines authorize antiviral treatments if patients meet five criteria. One is having "a medical condition or other factors that increase their risk for severe illness." One of those factors is being a minority, according to the guidelines.

The protocols have become a talking point for Republicans after The Wall Street Journal ran an op-ed by political commentators John Judis and Ruy Teixeira this month complaining that New York's policy is unfair, unjustified and possibly illegal. Carlson jumped on Utah's and Minnesota's policies last week, saying "you win if you're not white."

Alvin Tillery, a political scientist at Northwestern University, called the issue a winning political strategy for Trump and Republicans looking to motivate their predominantly white base ahead of midterm elections in November. He said conservatives are twisting the narrative, noting that race is only one of a multitude of factors in every allocation policy. □



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Last straw: Fed-up Arizona Democrats censure Sen. Sinema

By JONATHAN J. COOPER
PHOENIX (AP) — U.S. Sen.

Kyrsten Sinema is growing increasingly isolated from some of her party's most influential officials and donors after playing a key role in scuttling voting rights legislation that many consider essential to preserving democracy.

Leaders of the Arizona Democratic Party voted Saturday to censure Sinema, citing "her failure to do whatever it takes to ensure the health of our democracy" — namely her refusal to go along with fellow Democrats to alter a Senate rule so they could overcome Republican opposition to the bill. While the rebuke is symbolic, it is striking given that only three years ago, Sinema was heralded for bringing the Senate seat back into the Democratic fold for the first time in a generation.

Donors are threatening to walk away. Several groups are already collecting money for an eventual primary challenge, even though she's not on the ballot until 2024. Young activists are holding a second hunger strike to draw attention to Sinema's vote.

The moves offer a preview of the persistent opposition Sinema will likely face within her own party in the two years before she next appears on a ballot. The independent streak that has given her tremendous leverage over the agenda in Washington has enraged many Democrats back home who are intent on preventing her reelection. "Any reservoir of goodwill that she had is gone," said Rep. Ruben Gallego, an Arizona Democrat who may challenge Sinema from the left.

Sinema's defenders say nobody who's watched her for the past decade should be surprised by her position. She often bucked her party in the House, ran an aggressively moderate campaign for Senate and has never wavered in her support for upholding the filibuster.

"During three terms in the U.S. House, and now in the



Sen. Kyrsten Sinema, D-Ariz., speaks before President Joe Biden signs the \$1.2 trillion bipartisan infrastructure bill into law during a ceremony on the South Lawn of the White House in Washington, on Nov. 15, 2021.

Associated Press

Senate, Kyrsten has always promised Arizonans she would be an independent voice for the state — not for either political party," Hannah Hurley, Sinema's spokesperson, said in a statement before the censure vote. "She's delivered for Arizonans and has always been honest about where she stands."

Hurley repeated her comments in response to the censure.

Sinema's influence is driven by the Senate's 50-50 split, which essentially gives any senator the ability to kill legislation, an option Sinema has repeatedly exercised. But she faces political dynamics unlike the other Senate moderate thwarting Democratic ambitions, Joe Manchin of West Virginia. Representing a state that former President Donald Trump carried by nearly 39 percentage points in 2020, Manchin is unlikely to face a progressive challenger who would gain traction.

In Arizona, however, Democrats are ascendant. Joe Biden was the first Democratic presidential candidate to carry the state since 1996, and the party is eager to build on that success. That makes it harder for a Democrat to simply ignore the left here, particularly in a primary election.

Sinema supports the Democrats' voting rights legislation but steadfastly opposes passing it by changing or eliminating the Senate's filibuster rule, which effectively requires 60 of 100 votes to pass most legislation. On Wednesday night, she joined Manchin and all Republicans to oppose a one-time rule change so the bill could pass with a simple majority.

Laphonza Butler, president of Emily's List, an important fundraising group for Democratic women who support abortion rights, said in a statement that Sinema's vote "means she will find herself standing alone in the next election." She said the group would not endorse her reelection if she doesn't support a path forward for voting rights legislation.

Primary Sinema Project, which is raising money for an eventual primary challenge, said it's collected more than \$300,000 from nearly 12,000 donors.

"We are quite literally doing everything we physically, possibly can in terms of putting our bodies on the line and trying to plead for this action because the consequences (of inaction) are far worse than starving or going to jail or both," said Shana Gallagher, one of

about three dozen young people holding a hunger strike to protest Sinema and Manchin. Gallagher

is co-founder of Un-PAC, launched last year to organize young people in favor of passing voting rights legislation.

Sen. Bernie Sanders, a Vermont independent whose fundraising and mobilization abilities are virtually unmatched on the left, suggested he'd support primary challengers to Sinema and Manchin.

Sinema says the filibuster forces bipartisanship on Capitol Hill and ensures that the millions of Americans represented by the minority party have a voice. Repealing it would lead to wild swings in legislation depending on the party in power, she says.

"When one party need only negotiate with itself, policy will inextricably be pushed from the middle towards the extremes," she said in a floor speech last week, her most expansive explanation of her views on the issue. □

To our reader and clients:
In connection with the holiday, Betico Croes Day, Aruba Today will not be published on Tuesday, January 25th, 2022. We will resume our publication on Wednesday, January 26th, 2022.



Gilberto Francois (Betico) Croes

January 25th, 1938 – November 26th, 1986

Coast along Virginia and the Carolinas gets snow, ice

By **BEN FINLEY**
Associated Press

NORFOLK, Va. (AP) — A layer of ice and a blanket of snow covered coastal areas stretching from South Carolina to Virginia on Saturday after a winter weather system brought colder temperatures and precipitation not often seen in the region.

Authorities urged drivers to stay off the roads and highways, which forecasters said are slick and snow-packed in the storm's aftermath. They also warned of black ice, particularly late Saturday and early Sunday as any snow melting on roads refroze.

"People should not attempt to drive in these conditions," North Carolina Transportation Secretary Eric Boyette said.

Temperatures were frigid across several Southeast states. Meteorologists said they likely won't rise above the 30s in Virginia and much of North Carolina during the day and will drop into the 20s and even teens in some places on Saturday night.

By about 7 a.m. Saturday, the storm had mostly blown off the Atlantic Coast, leaving as much as 6 inches (15 centimeters) of snow in southeastern Virginia and northeastern North Caro-



Snow covers the Virginia Beach oceanfront, Saturday, Jan. 22, 2022 in Virginia Beach, Va. A layer of ice and a blanket of snow has covered coastal areas stretching from South Carolina to Virginia. Associated Press

lina, meteorologists said. Further south, there was ice in parts of coastal North Carolina. Ice stretched along much of the South Carolina coast as well, although in much smaller amounts.

"There was basically a glaze reported as far south as Charleston," said Carl Morgan, a meteorologist with the National Weather Service in Wilmington. "We're talking less than a 10th of an inch of freezing rain."

The snowfall in southeastern Virginia and northeastern North Carolina mirrored

the forecast of 4 to 6 inches (10 to 15 centimeters), said Mike Montefusco, a meteorologist with the National Weather Service in Wakefield, Virginia. He said Saturday's cold temperatures would keep the snow from melting at least until Sunday, when temperatures were expected to reach the 40s.

The snow prompted some restaurants along the touristy Virginia Beach oceanfront to close on Saturday. But two eateries, Commune and Prosperity Kitchen, opened their doors in the

hopes that people would brave a walk from nearby residential neighborhoods. "We've had storms like this in the past, and either we're completely dead or super busy because everyone just wants to get out in the snow and have a fun day," said Kevin Jamison, who owns both restaurants. Jamison said customers were already trickling in Saturday morning.

"Just to be in a nice, cozy café and getting coffee — there's something romantic about that," Jamison added. "And I think maybe

other people are feeling the same way."

But further south, the ice in the Carolinas caused headaches for many.

About 4,500 had lost power in coastal South Carolina on Friday night, including in Myrtle Beach. But most were back online Saturday morning, according to utility Santee Cooper.

The number of North Carolina power outages during the storm peaked at about 16,000 at 4 a.m. Saturday, and had dropped by mid-morning to about 4,000, with most located in Onslow and Carteret counties, according to Gov. Roy Cooper's office. Those outages were resolved later Saturday.

Cooper's office said North Carolina's Highway Patrol troopers had responded to more than 1,500 calls for service as of Saturday morning. There also were 945 collisions in affected areas since Friday afternoon. Cooper's office said a majority of the calls were related to vehicles sliding off roadways and becoming stuck or involved in single vehicle collisions.

More than 1,100 trucks and graders operated by the North Carolina DOT or by contractors were applying salt and sand and plowing roads. □

Cruise ship changes course after US judge orders seizure



The cruise liner Crystal Symphony leaves the harbor in Charleston, S.C. on May, 21, 2013. Associated Press

By **ADRIANA GOMEZ LICON**
The Associated Press

MIAMI (AP) — A cruise ship that was supposed to dock in Miami sailed to the Ba-

hamas instead after a U.S. judge granted an order to seize the vessel as part of a lawsuit over unpaid fuel. Cruise trackers show Crs-

tal Symphony currently docked in the Bahamian island of Bimini.

Passengers were taken by ferry to Port Everglades in Fort Lauderdale on Sunday. "We all feel we were abducted by luxurious pirates!" passenger Stephen Heard Fales posted on Facebook.

It was unclear how many passengers were aboard, with one news outlet reporting 300 and another, 700. According to the company website, the vessel can carry up to 848 passengers.

The ship was scheduled to land in Miami on Saturday. But a federal judge in Miami issued an arrest warrant for the ship on Thurs-

day, a maritime practice where a U.S. Marshal goes aboard the vessel and takes charge of it once it enters U.S. waters.

Passengers and entertainers said on social media they were surprised to find out about the legal case. One guest posted a letter on Facebook from Crystal Cruises Management that said the change in itinerary was due to "non-technical operational issues."

The lawsuit was filed in a Miami federal court by Peninsula Petroleum Far East against the ship under a maritime procedure that allows actions against vessels for unpaid debts. The complaint says Crystal Symphony was chartered or

managed by Crystal Cruises and Star Cruises, which are both sued for breach of contract for owing \$4.6 million in fuel.

Crystal Cruises announced earlier this week that it was suspending operations through late April. Besides Crystal Symphony, it has two other ships currently cruising, which end their voyages on Jan. 30 in Aruba and on Feb. 4 in Argentina.

"Suspending operations will provide Crystal's management team with an opportunity to evaluate the current state of business and examine various options moving forward," said the company in a statement earlier this week. □

Russia rejects UK claim of trying to replace Ukraine leader

By JIM HEINTZ and JILL LAWLESS

Associated Press

MOSCOW (AP) — Russia's Foreign Ministry on Sunday rejected a British claim that the Kremlin is seeking to replace Ukraine's government with a pro-Moscow administration, and that former Ukrainian lawmaker Yevheniy Murayev is a potential candidate.

Britain's Foreign Office on Saturday also named several other Ukrainian politicians it said had links with Russian intelligence services, along with Murayev who is the leader of a small party that has no seats in parliament.

Those politicians include Mykola Azarov, a former prime minister under Viktor Yanukovich, the Ukrainian president ousted in a 2014 uprising, and Yanukovich's former chief of staff, Andriy Kluyev.

"Some of these have contact with Russian intelligence officers currently involved in the planning for an attack on Ukraine," the Foreign Office said.

Murayev told The Associated Press via Skype that the British claim "looks ridiculous and funny" and that he has been denied entry to Russia since 2018 on the grounds of being a threat



Members of Ukraine's Territorial Defense Forces, volunteer military units of the Armed Forces, train in a city park in Kyiv, Ukraine, Saturday, Jan. 22, 2022.

Associated Press

to Russian security. He said that sanction was imposed in the wake of a conflict with Viktor Medvedchuk, Ukraine's most prominent pro-Russia politician and a friend of Russian President Vladimir Putin.

Murayev's Nashi party — whose name echoes the former Russian youth movement that supported Putin — is regarded as sympathetic to Russia, but Murayev on Sunday pushed back on characterizing it as pro-Russia.

"The time of pro-Western and pro-Russian politicians

in Ukraine is gone forever," he said in a Facebook post. "Everything that does not support the pro-Western path of development of Ukraine is automatically pro-Russian," Murayev told The AP.

He also said he supports Ukraine having neutral status and believes that "striving for NATO is tantamount to continuing the war." Ukrainian forces and Russia-backed separatists have been fighting in the country's east since 2014, a conflict that has killed more than 14,000.

Ukrainian political analyst Volodymyr Fesenko described Murayev as a significant figure in Ukraine's pro-Russia camp, but added: "Murayev is a second-place player.

I don't think Murayev has direct connections in the Kremlin."

The U.K. government made the claim based on an intelligence assessment, without providing evidence to back it up. It comes amid high tensions between Moscow and the West over Russia's designs on Ukraine and each side's increasing

accusations that the other is planning provocations.

"The disinformation spread by the British Foreign Office is more evidence that it is the NATO countries, led by the Anglo-Saxons, who are escalating tensions around Ukraine," Russian Foreign Ministry spokeswoman Maria Zakharova said on the Telegram messaging app Sunday. "We call on the British Foreign Office to stop provocative activities, stop spreading nonsense."

British Foreign Secretary Liz Truss said the information "shines a light on the extent of Russian activity designed to subvert Ukraine, and is an insight into Kremlin thinking."

Truss urged Russia to "deescalate, end its campaigns of aggression and disinformation, and pursue a path of diplomacy," and reiterated Britain's view that "any Russian military incursion into Ukraine would be a massive strategic mistake with severe costs."

Britain has sent anti-tank weapons to Ukraine as part of efforts to bolster the country's defenses against a potential Russian attack. Mark Galeotti, who has written extensively on Russian security services, said: "I can't help but be skeptical" about the British claim. □

Farmers' protest in Spain highlights rural concerns

MADRID (AP) — Farmers, cattle-breeders, hunters and opposition supporters descended Sunday on the Spanish capital of Madrid to protest environmental and economic policies by Spain's left-of-center government that they say are hurting rural communities. Sunday's protest was organized by Alma Rural 2021, a platform representing over 500 rural organizations from all corners of Spain. Members of opposition parties, ranging from centrists to far-right supporters, also attended.

The demonstration came as Spanish politicians are campaigning before an early election in Castilla-Leon, a vast region northeast

of Madrid where proposals against depopulation and agricultural policies are taking center stage.

Carlos Bueno, head of Alma Rural 2021, said the protest aimed to highlight rural concerns amid what he called "ideological" attacks from the government. Concerns ranged from regulating prices for agricultural products to protections for those who breed cattle for bullfights and more subsidies for rural industries.

Tractors and bull carts headed the march along a Madrid thoroughfare, with protesters walking from the gates of the Ecology Transition Ministry — the previous Environment Min-

istry — to the Agriculture Ministry. Among the many banners held by protesters, one read: "Farmers speak. Who's listening?"

Spain's Ecological Transition Ministry said the country's budget for 2022 includes 4.2 billion euros (\$4.7 billion) to fight the depopulation of rural areas. Spain's rural world "doesn't need populist slogans but political involvement and resource to solve historical problems," it said in a statement.

A spat over industrial livestock farming has dominated headlines for the past month since Consumer Minister Alberto Garzón, a member of the far-left junior partner of the Socialist-led administration, criti-



People take part in a protest march along the Castellana Boulevard in Madrid, Spain, Sunday, Jan. 23, 2022, defending Spanish rural areas.

Associated Press

cized big cattle operations for damaging the environment and producing poor quality food for export. His remarks caused a politi-

cal storm, created divisions within the ruling coalition and led to calls by right-wing opposition parties for Garzón to resign. □

Mutinous soldiers take over Burkina Faso military barracks

By **SAM MEDNICK**
Associated Press
OUAGADOUGOU, Burkina Faso (AP) — Mutinous soldiers seized control of a military base in Burkina Faso's capital Sunday, raising fears of a coup attempt in the West African nation as gunfire rang out for hours amid growing frustration with the government's handling of the Islamic insurgency.

The apparent mutiny came one day after the latest public demonstration calling for President Roch Marc Christian Kabore's resignation. On Sunday, security forces used tear gas to disperse crowds seeking to publicly support the mutineers. Crowds also vandalized a building occupied by the president's political party and set it on fire. Defense Minister Aime Barthelemy Simpore told state broadcaster RTB that a few barracks had been affected by unrest not only in the capital of Ouagadougou but in other cities too. He denied, however, that the president had been detained by the mutineers, even though Kabore's whereabouts remained unknown.



A mutinous soldier fires into the air at the Bobo interchange, near the Lamizana camp in Burkina Faso's capital Ouagadougou Sunday Jan. 23, 2022.

Associated Press

"Well, it's a few barracks. There are not too many," Simpore said. "In some of these barracks, the calm has already returned. So that's it for the moment. As I said, we are monitoring the situation."

A news headline on the

state broadcaster described the gunfire as "acts of discontent by soldiers." "Contrary to some information, no institution of the republic has been targeted," the headline continued.

At the Lamizana Sangoule military barracks in the capital, however, angry soldiers shot into the air

Sunday, directing their anger over army casualties at the president. About 100 motorcycles later left the base, chanting in support of the mutineers, but were stopped when security forces deployed tear gas. The soldiers put a man on the phone with The Associated Press who said that

they were seeking better working conditions for Burkina Faso's military amid the escalating fight against Islamic militants. Among their demands are increased manpower in the battle against extremists and better care for those wounded and the families of the dead. The mutinous soldiers also want the military and intelligence hierarchy replaced, he said. There were signs Sunday that their demands were supported by many in Burkina Faso who are increasingly distressed by the attacks blamed on al-Qaida and Islamic State-linked groups. Thousands have died in recent years from those attacks and around 1.5 million people have been displaced.

"We want the military to take power," said Salif Sawadogo as he tried to avoid tear gas on the streets of Ouagadougou. "Our democracy is not stable." Kabore first took office in 2015, winning the election held after longtime President Blaise Compaore was ousted in a popular uprising. □

U.S. detains smuggling ship, UK seizes drugs in Mideast waters



This photo released by the U.S. Navy, shows U.S. service members conduct a boarding on a stateless fishing vessel transiting international waters in the Gulf of Oman, Tuesday, Jan. 18, 2022.

Associated Press

By **ISABEL DEBRE**
Associated Press
DUBAI, United Arab Emirates (AP) — The U.S. Navy announced Sunday it seized a boat in the Gulf of Oman carrying fertilizer used to make explosives that was caught last year smuggling weapons to Yemen. The British royal navy

said it confiscated 1,041 kilograms (2,295 pounds) of illegal drugs in the same waters.

The interdictions were just the latest in the volatile waters of the Persian Gulf as American and British authorities step up seizures of contraband during the grinding conflict in Yemen

and ongoing drug trafficking in the region.

The U.S. Navy's Mideast-based 5th Fleet said its guided-missile destroyer USS Cole and patrol ships halted and searched the sailboat, a stateless fishing dhow, that was sailing from Iran on a well-worn maritime arms smuggling route to war-ravaged Yemen last Tuesday. U.S. forces found 40 tons of urea fertilizer, known to be a key ingredient in homemade improvised explosive devices, hidden on board.

Authorities said the vessel had been previously seized off the coast of Somalia and found last year to be loaded with thousands of assault rifles and rocket launchers, among other weapons. U.N. experts say weapons with such technical characteristics likely come from Iran to support the Houthi rebels. The Navy turned over the vessel, car-

go and Yemeni crew to Yemen's coast guard earlier this week.

Yemen is awash with small arms that have been smuggled into the country's poorly controlled ports over years of conflict. Since 2015, Iranian-backed Houthi rebels have been battling a Saudi-led military coalition for control of the nation. Iran says it politically supports the rebels but denies arming them, despite evidence to the contrary. The smuggled weapons have helped the Houthis gain an edge against the Saudi-led coalition in the seven-year war. Violence has drastically escalated over the past week amid stalled international attempts at brokering peace. Following a deadly drone attack claimed by the rebels on Abu Dhabi, in the United Arab Emirates, Saudi warplanes pounded the northern rebel-held

province of Saada, hitting a prison and killing over 80 detainees.

Officials also revealed Sunday that a British royal navy vessel had seized a large quantity of illegal drugs valued at some \$26 million from a boat sailing through the Gulf of Oman on Jan. 15.

The HMS Montrose confiscated 663 kilograms (1,461 pounds) of heroin, 87 kilograms (191 pounds) of methamphetamine and 291 kilograms (641 pounds) of hashish and marijuana, the joint maritime task force said in a statement.

The task force did not elaborate on where the drugs came from, who manufactured them or their ultimate destination. But Iran over the last decade has seen an explosion in the use of methamphetamine, known locally as "shisheh" or "glass" in Farsi, which has bled into neighboring countries. □

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Honduran Congress splits, threatens new president's plans

By MARLON GONZÁLEZ

Associated Press

TEGUCIGALPA, Honduras

(AP) — Honduran President-elect Xiomara Castro faced a growing crisis on Sunday as dueling sessions of the newly elected Congress elected different sets of leaders, threatening Castro's ability to carry out promised reforms.

The president is to be inaugurated on Thursday and U.S. officials have hoped she could help battle poverty and insecurity in a country that is a major source of uncontrolled migration.

But a sizable bloc of deputies from her own Liberty and Refoundation party rebelled against her attempt to build a legislative majority by promising leadership of Congress to the allied party of her vice president. That split threatens to give control of the legislature back to National and Liberal Parties that had traded the presidency for generations.

With the conflict growing, hundreds of Castro's supporters surrounded the legislative building overnight and the protests led one group of deputies to meet at a country club near the capital on Sunday. There they confirmed the election of a dissident to lead Congress.

While Jorge Cálix promised to back Castro's policies, most of his support came from the conservative Na-



Honduras' President-elect Xiomara Castro, center, greets supporters of her Liberty and Refoundation Party gathered in Tegucigalpa, Honduras, Saturday, Jan. 22, 2022.

Associated Press

tional Party of outgoing President Juan Orlando Hernández — who has been accused by U.S. federal prosecutors of involvement with drug smugglers. Another group met at the Congress building in Tegucigalpa and elected Castro's favored candidate, Luís Redondo. She quickly tweeted recognition of his selection and invited him to the inauguration.

Both groups claimed to have a majority. The standoff also threatens her alliance with the Salvation Party of Vice President Salvador Nasralla — Redondo is a member of it — and raised suspicions that

the outgoing government is trying to scuttle her administration before it can start.

Political analyst Josué Murillo said the dissident legislators "are really pursuing their own private interests, whether it be a personal ego thing or an unbridled appetite for power," and said the divided Congress

could prove to be "a stone in the shoe" for Castro's administration.

On Friday night Castro announced her party, known as Libre, was expelling 18 rebellious legislators. "These traitors who are singing like mermaids and say they are defending the will of the people, that's a lie, it is not true," Castro wrote.

The National Party quickly tried to take advantage, issuing a statement offering to take them in — something that would immediately give it the biggest delegation in Congress if it occurs.

The conflict alarmed U.S. diplomats in Honduras, who tweeted "a call on the political actors to maintain calm, establish dialogue, abstain from violence and provocative rhetoric."

Castro's party, known as Libre, won 50 seats in the 128-seat Congress in November elections, so it needs allied parties — as well as all of its own votes — to pass legislation.

Political analyst and former presidential candidate Olban Valladares said the dispute could be the result of interference from the outgoing Hernández administration and made it doubtful that Castro would be able to count on the full support of her party to resolve Honduras' problems. Former President Manuel Zelaya, Castro's husband, said via Twitter that the selection of Cálix would not be recognized and traitors would be expelled. □

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We celebrate our National Hero Betico Croes

ORANJESTAD — The island of Aruba has a special day coming up Tomorrow, January 25th. In a non-pandemic situation the island would have lots of festivities that honor the late pro-autonomy political leader Gilberto Francois (Betico) Croes. He helped the island attain the Status Aparte.

Aruba was allowed to function as a commonwealth within the Dutch Kingdom and Betico is honored for this outcome since 1989 by celebrating the Dia di Betico. The official holiday normally features performances, sporting

events and games throughout the island. Still we as Arubans celebrate our national hero, in social distance and in our hearts.

Croes himself was not able to enjoy the results of his ongoing struggle; he was involved in an accident on December 31, 1985, and got into a coma. He passed away on November 26, 1986. For the Aruban people, his words will never be forgotten. He told his people: "Si mi cai na caminda, gara e bandera y sigue cu e lucha" which means "If I fall along the way, grab the flag and continue the struggle."

Active man

Betico was born on January 25, 1938. Croes had four children: two sons—Glenbert Croes and Gilberto Junior Croes and two daughters—Glendeline Croes and Guisette Croes. Both of Croes' sons served as Ministers and Glenbert is currently in office as Minister of Labor. Betico was also the uncle of Aruba's current prime Minister Mrs. Evelyn Wever-Croes.

The father of the Aruban nation or the Liberator (Libertador) as he is called often, was an active man in Caribbean organizations while he studied in the Netherlands. Betico was a social man, participated in sports and the social and cultural community. He worked as a teacher and instituted the official seal, flag and hymn for the island. During the Round table Conference of 1981, he was responsible for formally setting the date for Aruba's independency. Betico also became leader of the political party Movimiento Electoral di Pueblo (MEP), now the main party that forms the current government that was elected in September 2021. There were two stages in which the Independence was formed: the first one was set for 1986, the second was set for ten years later and enhanced the independence from the Netherlands. However, it never came to a total independence of Aruba in 1996; it was dropped in 1990. The Status Aparte within the Kingdom of the Netherlands was to be a permanent one. □





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PALM BEACH — MedCare's Fit2Fly COVID-19 Testing Centers has improved its services when it comes to turn around time for results. As of November its offering same day test results (previously it was 24 hours) on both PCR and Antigen tests.

This in part is to comply with the updated December 6, CDC requirement for travel to the United States, where all air passengers, regardless of vaccination status, must show a negative COVID-19 test taken no more than 1 day before travel to the United States.

MedCare Fit2Fly Testing Center at the Cove Mall is opposite the Holiday Inn and is open every day for walk-ins from 8 AM through 6 PM. MedCare's other location is situated at The Courtyard by Marriott Aruba Resort, is across the street from the RIU Hotel and is open every day from 8:00 AM until 2 PM. These

two locations are at a stone's throw from your resort, condominium, or other vacation accommodation. Walk-ins are welcome. MedCare Clinic, a high-quality medical clinic that specializes in urgent care for tourists and that has been appointed as the national COVID-19 clinic for tourists, and Laboratorio di Servizio, a full-service modern medical laboratory with state-of-the-art equipment, have partnered up to provide fast and reliable COVID-19 testing to all. Laboratorio di Servizio is ISO-15189:2012 accredited by the Dutch Council for Accreditation (M317).

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Betico Day Celebration 2022



ORANJESTAD – On January 25, Aruba celebrates the birth date of Gilberto François 'Betico' Croes.

Each year, the Government of Aruba, through the Ministry of Culture and the National Days Celebration Committee, organize multiple activities to celebrate this national Betico Day. These celebrations serve as a reminder of his achievements like the Status Aparte. Due to the pandemic, the organizers will broadcast these events on tv and virtual media.

The Crisis Team has approved the formal ceremony but with limited guests, and all guests must comply with the safety protocols. The Ministry of Culture

invites our community to celebrate this at home together with relatives.

Virtual Cultural Manifest

On Monday, January 24, the Cultural Manifest will be held virtually and air at 8:00 pm on local TV channels and virtual media. The manifest includes musical presentation, dance, and speech by the Minister of Culture. The entire community is invited to tune in.

Formal Ceremony

The formal ceremony will take place on Tuesday, January 25 at 9:00 am with limited guests as agreed with the Crisis Team. The official ceremony begins with the arrival of the Ministers, and at 9:00 am, the presentations will start. The ceremony includes musical performances with songs by children, reflection, poetry, speech by the Prime Minister of Aruba Evelyn Wever Croes, and tribute to the late G.F. Betico Croes. Due to the safety protocols, the ceremony will not be open for public attendance. The streets Vondellaan and Rumbastraat will be blocked for traffic and pedestrians.

Virtual Competition "Kibra Coco"

This year, the organizers are introducing a new event; a televised competition 'Kibra Coco', where children of primary school can participate with their parents from the comfort of their homes. There will be prizes for the participant, their family, and school class. There will also be the Betico Challenge. In this challenge, the children participating in the Kibra Coco competition must send a selfie with relatives playing Kibra Coco via WhatsApp to 597-2323 to participate

for prizes. Kibra Coco will be held on Tuesday, January 25 at 5:00 pm and live on all local TV channels.

'Kibra Coco' is a game in the format of a quiz and consists of different levels of questions, interviews, and interactions and is presented by Jeancarlo Espinal.

School Material

This year, a short video was created in cooperation with the Aruba National Archive about the history of Betico Croes. This video contains information about a young Betico, his relatives, his fight, and his achievement of the Status Aparte. This educational video is relevant to the Kibra Coco quiz on Betico Day.

In addition to these events, there will also be a coloring competition for elementary school kids. The drawing will be available online and in the upcoming days in the local newspapers. Both the video and coloring drawing will be available on the Facebook page of Gabinete Wever Croes, Department of Culture, and YouTube of Minister Maduro. Participants must submit the coloring drawing no later than Monday, January 31, 2022, at school. The National Days Celebration Committee members will select three winners. The announcement of the winners is in February, and they will receive their prizes.

The Minister of Culture is very grateful to the state companies SETAR, Utilities Group (WEB, ELMAR, and Utilities Aruba), and the Refinery of Aruba for their support in making the Betico Day celebration a big celebration.

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Taxpayers face overloaded IRS as filing season opens Monday

By **FATIMA HUSSEIN**

WASHINGTON (AP) —

Count 30-year-old Ethan Miller among that subset of Americans who are actually eager to file their taxes once income tax filing season opens on Monday.

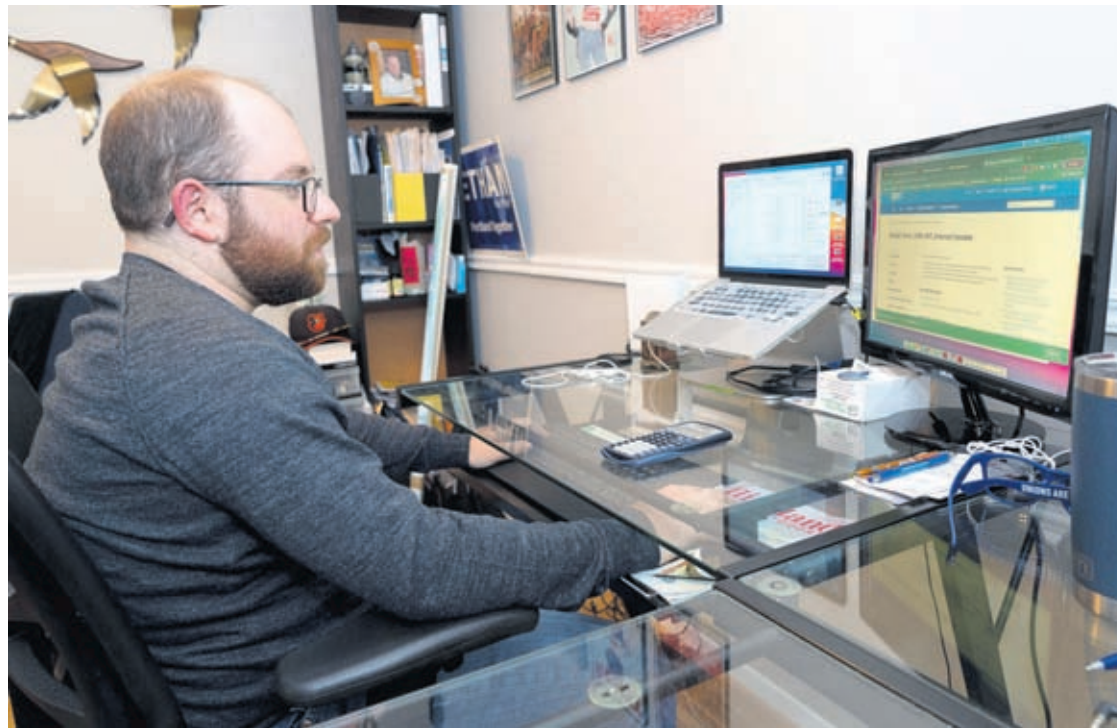
The financial planner who lives in Silver Spring, Maryland, is looking forward to claiming the new deductions that will come from buying a home. He also wants to get a jump on a tax season that promises to bring lots of extra headaches and delays for filers this year.

"I'm trying to get a head start on my taxes as much as possible," Miller said, adding that he is not too nervous about forecasts of extra delays because he will file online and will not be waiting for too big a refund.

Plenty of other filers, though, may be in for more heartburn.

An IRS worker shortage, an enormous workload from administering pandemic-related programs and stalled legislation that would have given the agency billions of dollars for more expeditiously processing returns will combine to cause taxpayers pain this filing season.

"The IRS right now has unacceptable backlogs and the customer service that people are receiving is not what the American public deserves," White House press secretary Jen Psaki



Ethan Miller works on his taxes at home in Silver Spring, Md., Friday, Jan., 21, 2022

Associated Press

acknowledged Friday. "The agency has not been equipped with the resources to adequately serve taxpayers in normal times, let alone during a pandemic." She stressed that the problems predate the Biden administration and she urged understanding for beleaguered workers already saddled with huge backlogs. "It's going to take some work, it's going to take some time and I think people need to understand that they need funding," Psaki said.

Agency officials are already warning filers that "in many areas, we are unable to deliver the amount of service and enforcement that our taxpayers and

tax system deserves and needs," as IRS Commissioner Chuck Rettig put it earlier in the month.

Delays in processing are to be expected -- especially because the IRS says it still is working through 2020 tax returns.

During the 2020 budget year, the IRS processed more than 240 million tax returns and issued roughly \$736 billion in refunds, including \$268 billion in stimulus payments, according to the latest IRS data. In that same time frame, 59.5 million people called or visited an IRS office.

Donald Williamson, an accounting and taxation professor at American University in Washington, said he

expects "weeks and weeks" of IRS delays in 2022.

"You can blame Congress or the IRS. I imagine they're trying to do the right thing but it just adds to further complexity," he said. "My advice in 2022 is file early, get started tomorrow and try to put your taxes together with a qualified professional."

Williamson said he advises his clients to file electronically, and those who expect hefty refunds in the tens of thousands should expect greater delays. Most backlogged returns were filed on paper and are amended returns.

Deadlines to file have been extended in the past two years due to the pandem-

ic. It is unclear whether this year the agency will offer similar leeway to taxpayers. There will be plenty of new issues to navigate this year. For example, individuals who are eligible to claim the child tax credit and have gotten advance payments throughout the year may get a smaller refund than they normally would see.

People who did not get stimulus checks that they were qualified for as part of the pandemic relief package might yet be able to claim a "recovery rebate credit" on their taxes.

On Thursday, the IRS released a list of "Top 5 Things to Remember," with suggestions for taxpayers on what documents to pull together and what to do if their 2020 returns still have not been processed.

The IRS anticipates that most taxpayers will receive their refund within 21 days of when they file electronically, barring any issues with processing their return. But plenty of pitfalls remain, in part due to staffing troubles at the IRS.

Tony Reardon, president of the National Treasury Employees Union that represents IRS workers, said the agency "has a hard time recruiting because they're up against Burger King or McDonald's," which offer similar pay without requiring workers to "deal with confusing rules and regulations." □

Mars gives M&M's a makeover to promote inclusivity

By **MICHELLE CHAPMAN**
and **ANNE D'INNOCENZIO**
AP Business Writers

Candy maker Mars is giving a makeover to its six M&M's characters as a way to promote inclusivity.

The company said that it will provide a modern take on the appearances of the characters — which Mars calls "lentils" — and give them more nuanced personalities. The lentils, which are featured in red, green, orange, yellow, brown and blue, will also come in different shapes and sizes.

Some of the changes to

the M&M characters include making two of them less stereotypically feminine. In the new version, the green M&M ditches the high-heeled boots in favor of sneakers and the brown candy no longer wears stilettoes, opting instead for lower heels.

"Our ambition is to upend the expected, break through barriers, and discover the little joys shared in everyday life. Imagine a world with less judgment & more connection & consistent laughter," the company said on its website.

Mars, whose brands also include Twix and Snickers, said that it will also put added emphasis on the ampersand in the M&M's logo to demonstrate how the brand aims to bring people together.

The move toward inclusivity and embracing individual differences comes at a time when consumers are growing increasingly aware of how products are marketed to them. Mars is aware of this, having had to change the name of its Uncle Ben's rice brand in 2020 due to criticism. □



M&M's candy is seen in Nashville, Tenn., Friday, Jan. 21, 2022. Candy maker Mars is giving a makeover to its six M&M's characters as a way to promote inclusivity.

Associated Press

CROSSWORD

By THOMAS JOSEPH

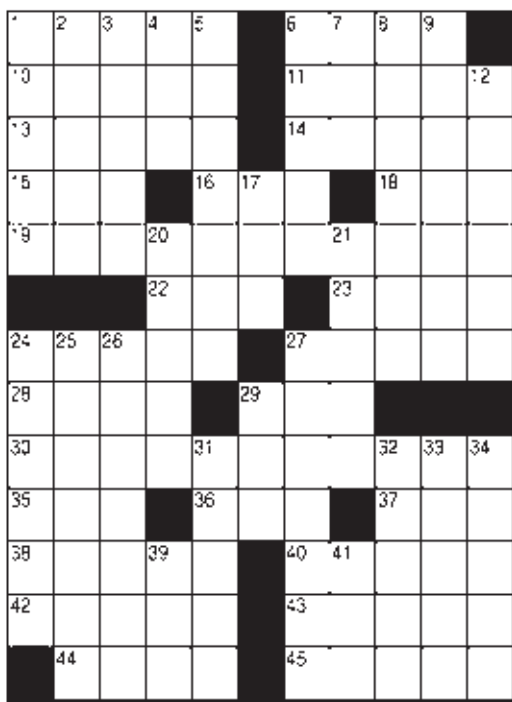
- ACROSS**
- 40 Japanese port
 - 42 Fills completely
 - 43 Assesses
 - 44 Mailed
 - 45 Gem

DOWN

- 1 "Beat it!"
- 2 Curaçao's neighbor
- 3 Farm machine
- 4 Genesis name
- 5 Stands up to
- 6 Rap entourage
- 7 Blvd.'s kin
- 8 Kath-mandu natives
- 9 Plead
- 12 Nymph chasers
- 17 Pi follower
- 20 Swiss trill
- 21 South American
- 24 Shells out
- 25 TV studio equipment
- 26 Make trouble
- 27 Onscreen pointers
- 29 "Nova" network
- 31 Bread-making
- 32 "Keen!"
- 33 Confiscated
- 34 Make blank
- 39 Fellows
- 41 Used a chair



Saturday's answer



AXYDLBAAXR
is LONGFELLOW

One letter stands for another. In this sample, A is used for the three L's, X for the two O's, etc. Single letters, apostrophes, the length and formation of the words are all hints. Each day the code letters are different.

1-24

CRYPTOQUOTE

LA TBPJG, IR DPA LAJB

FLOOLVPYJLRK, QAF LA BYF

QZR, FLOOLVPYJLRK DPA LAJB

PK, CBKG WLYYLAZK

Saturday's Cryptoquote: OTHER LANDS HAVE THEIR VITALITY IN A FEW, A CLASS, BUT WE HAVE IT IN THE BULK OF OUR PEOPLE. — WALT WHITMAN

Miranda talks about Bruno, and the 'Encanto' phenomenon



Lin-Manuel Miranda arrives at the premiere of "Encanto" on Wednesday, Nov. 3, 2021, at the El Capitan Theatre in Los Angeles. Miranda composed the songs for the film.

Associated Press

By JAKE COYLE
AP Film Writer

NEW YORK (AP) — A month after "Encanto" debuted in theaters, Lin-Manuel Miranda, who wrote the movie's Colombia-inflected songs, took a long vacation. By the time he returned, something almost as extraordinary as the enchanted home of the movie had transpired.

"Encanto" became the first movie soundtrack since 2019 to reach No. 1 on the Billboard charts earlier this month. The film's most popular song, "We Don't Talk About Bruno," became the highest-charting song from a Disney animated film in more than 26 years, ranking higher than even "Let It Go."

The music of "Encanto" was suddenly everywhere. Everyone was talking about Bruno.

"By the time I got back, 'We Don't Talk About Bruno' had kind of taken over the world along with the rest of the 'Encanto' soundtrack," Miranda says, laughing. "It helps you have the perspective of: The opening weekend is not the life of the movie. It's just the very roughest draft. Two months

out, people are talking about Bruno, and his whole family."

It's not unusual for songs by Miranda, the composer of "Hamilton" and "In the Heights," to capture the zeitgeist. But what the soundtrack to "Encanto" is doing, long after it arrived in theaters on Nov. 24, is almost unheard of — particularly during a pandemic that has muted the ability of movies to make a lasting impression. "Encanto," a warm celebration of family centered on the Madrigals, a Colombian clan with magical powers, has been the most successful animated film at the box office during the pandemic, with \$223 million in ticket sales worldwide. But the soundtrack explosion — prompted by its Christmas debut on Disney+ — has propelled a rare kind of pop-culture sensation.

"Encanto" didn't displace just anybody from the top spot. It overtook Adele. Six songs from the film have charted on the Billboard 100, including "Surface Pressure," "The Family Madrigal," "What Else Can I Do?" "Waiting on a Miracle" and "Dos Oruguitas." All

also rank among the most streamed songs on Spotify. There, "We Don't Talk About Bruno" has been streamed more than 100 million times. On YouTube, you can not talk about Bruno in Hungarian and Bahasa Malaysia. Miranda took in the phenomenon of the "Encanto" soundtrack for the first time in an interview, speaking by phone on his way to a night of theater. ("Very on brand for me," he said from the back of a car.) He's mostly been experiencing "Encanto" mania through a text thread with directors Byron Howard and Jared Bush, co-director Charise Castro Smith and Tom MacDougall, head of music at Disney. They share things like clips of choreography or TikTok videos of people singing along. (The #Encanto hashtag has been viewed more than 11.5 billion times on TikTok.)

"I just got a text 10 minutes ago of someone tweeting 'If you don't speak Spanish and you put on the closed captioning for 'Dos Oruguitas,' you're really going to cry,'" says Miranda, chuckling.

To Miranda, what's most rewarding is how people are connecting to the songs and its characters as expressions of their own family roles and dynamics. For example: "Surface Pressure," sung by Jessica Darrow, taps into the weight of responsibility felt by an older sibling. Miranda wrote it with his older sister, Luz Miranda-Crespo, in mind. In one of the most popular "Encanto" TikToks, a young woman named Maribel Martinez says she not only looks like the muscular sister Luisa, but that "Surface Pressure" "tells my story." □

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Study: Drug-resistant bacteria kill 1.2 million globally



This scanning electron microscope image made available by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention shows rod-shaped *Pseudomonas aeruginosa* bacteria.

Associated Press

By MIKE STOBBE
AP Medical Writer
NEW YORK (AP) — Antibiotic-resistant germs caused more than 1.2 million deaths globally in one year, according to new research that suggests that these "superbugs" have joined the ranks of the world's leading infectious disease killers. The new estimate, published Thursday in the medical journal *Lancet*, is not a complete count of such deaths, but rather an attempt to fill in gaps from countries that report little or no data on the germs' toll. The World Health Organi-

zation has been citing a global estimate — several years old — that suggested at least 700,000 people die each year due to antimicrobial-resistant germs. But health officials have long acknowledged that there's been very little information from many countries. Antimicrobial resistance happens when germs like bacteria and fungi gain the power to fight off the drugs that were designed to kill them. The problem is not new, but attention to it has grown amid worries about a lack of new drugs to fight the germs.

WHO officials said in a statement that the new study "clearly demonstrates the existential threat" that drug-resistant germs pose. In the last few decades, health officials have tried to step up efforts to find funding and solutions. That includes trying to get a better handle on the toll. In the U.S., the Centers for Disease Control in 2019 estimated that more than 35,000 Americans die each year from antibiotic-resistant infections — or about 1% of the people who develop such infections. In the new paper, the researchers estimated

deaths linked to 23 germs in 204 countries and territories in 2019. They used data from hospitals, surveillance systems, other studies and other sources to produce death estimates in all parts of the world. They concluded that more than 1.2 million people died in 2019 from antibiotic-resistant bacterial infections, which are a large subset of a resistance problem also seen in drugs that target fungi and viruses. □

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Editor
Caribbean Speed Printers N.V.
Aruba Bank N.V. Acc. #332668
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RBC Royal Bank Acc. #1330772

Assistant Director

Xiomara Arends

Editors

Liza Koolman (Management assistant)

Richard Brooks

Sales

Linda Reijnders

Sulaika Croes

Classifieds

classified@cspnv.com

Distribution and Collection

accounting@bondia.com

Social / Website

Juan Luis Pinto

Pilar Flores

Columnists

Anthony Croes

Weststraat 22
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Winless in '21, Danielle Kang starts new LPGA year with win



Danielle Kang poses next to the championship trophy on the 18th green after winning the Tournament of Champions LPGA golf tournament, Sunday, Jan. 23, 2022, in Orlando, Fla.

By JEFF BABINEAU
ORLANDO, Fla. (AP) — Danielle Kang readily admits she, and her golf game, remain a constant work in progress. She spent much of the offseason finding a way to be "comfortable being uncomfortable." It seems to be working. On a difficult championship test at Lake Nona Golf and Country Club, Kang ran off five birdies in a seven-hole stretch in the middle of her round, posted the low score Sunday at 4-under 68 and sprinted away to a three-shot victory at

the season-opening Hilton Grand Vacations Tournament of Champions. "My mental game was really good," said Kang, who was winless in 2021 after having won in each of her previous four LPGA seasons. "I had a really good attitude all day today and yesterday. I know I left some putts out there, but I never let it get to me, and I kept having to give myself birdie chances as much as possible." Kang finished at 16-under 272, three shots clear of Canada's Brooke Henderson (70).

Kang was the lone player to break 70 on both weekend days (69-68), and the only player to shoot in the 60s all four rounds. The 29-year-old American now has six LPGA titles. In her only previous visit to Lake Nona, Kang missed the cut at the Gainbridge LPGA last year. But when asked about it during this tournament, Kang said she had no recollection. On a blustery, cool Florida day that made birdies scarce and scoring difficult, Kang poured in more

than her share, making six birdies. She took control of the tournament early on the back nine with three consecutive birdies starting at the par-3 13th. A highlight of the round was a hard-earned bogey at the 393-yard 16th, where Kang pulled her approach nearly into a penalty area and had to play away from the hole on a difficult bunker shot. She then two-putted from about 90 feet, converting a bogey putt from 10 feet. "A massive bogey," said Kang's caddie of five years, Englishman Olly Brett. Gaby Lopez, one of three players to hold the lead Sunday, experienced an up-and-down day, cooling after a hot front nine to finish third, four shots behind Kang. She played her way into the lead with three consecutive birdies

starting at the fifth hole, but couldn't keep up the pace and ended up with a 72. Playing alongside Nelly Korda and Annika Sorenstam — one a current No. 1, one a former, and 72-time LPGA champion — Lopez found the experience to be valuable and educational. "Starting Sunday with the World No. 1 and Annika? It's exactly where I want to be," she said. Korda, who took a one-shot lead into Sunday, shot 75 and slid to a tie for fourth. Korda did not make her first birdie of the round until the 15th hole. It certainly wasn't a continuation of her first 54 holes, when Korda made 16 birdies and an eagle. "Overall, you know, I didn't play very good," Korda said, "but I'm going to take some positives away from this week, and hopefully I can kind of take it into the next two." She plans to play the LPGA's first three events in Florida, then take six weeks off, creating her own offseason after a long and highly successful 2021 campaign. Given how Korda had been a solid closer all last season, her play Sunday was somewhat stunning. She had entered the final round coming off seven consecutive rounds in the 60s at Lake Nona, and 11 consecutive rounds in the 60s overall dating to last season. She didn't have to look far to find the LPGA record-holder for consecutive rounds in the 60s: Sorenstam, who once put together 14 in a row, was in her group, vying against former MLB pitcher Derek Lowe for the title in the celebrity division. Lowe and Sorenstam would go to extra holes to decide a celebrity winner, with Lowe shocking the World Golf Hall of Famer when he rolled in a 25-footer for birdie on the first extra hole, the par-4 18th. Sorenstam had a putt just inside Lowe's but when the ball failed to drop, victory was his. "I basically beat her on one hole," Lowe said. He had someplace to be. "See you at the bar." □



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Nadal reaches Australian Open quarterfinals for 14th time

By JOHN PYE

AP Sports Writer

MELBOURNE, Australia (AP)

— Rafael Nadal finally got the better of a crazy, long tiebreaker and knew he'd won half the battle.

After saving four set points and missing with the first six of his own, Nadal finally clinched a tiebreaker that lasted 28 minutes and 40 seconds to set himself on course to secure a spot in the Australian Open quarterfinals for a 14th time.

After his 7-6 (14), 6-2, 6-2 fourth-round victory over fellow left-hander Adrian Mannarino on Sunday, Nadal is potentially just three wins away from a men's record 21st Grand Slam singles title.

He later reflected on a tiebreaker where momentum swung wildly; where chants of "Let's go Rafa, Let's go!" rang out; where a point was decided on a 25-shot rally with both players scrambling at full stretch; and that ended only when Nadal volleyed from deep in the court and Mannarino's reflex reply skewed wide.

"Well, you know, I played a couple," he said, smiling, in reference to long tiebreakers. "But, yeah, (it was) a crazy one, chances for both. And, yeah, lucky to win that tiebreak at the end, no?"

"Half of the match in the tiebreak, without a doubt." Nadal will next play Denis Shapovalov, the 22-year-old Canadian who finished off a 6-3, 7-6 (5), 6-3 win over Olympic gold medalist Alexander Zverev on Margaret Court Arena less than an hour later to reach the last eight in Australia for the first time.

Shapovalov had to isolate after testing positive for COVID-19 when he arrived in Australia ahead of the year's first major, but recovered quickly to help Canada win the ATP Cup in Sydney and now reach a Grand Slam quarterfinal for the third time.

Women's No. 1 Ash Barty advanced to the quarterfinals for the fourth straight year when she beat 20-year-old American Amanda Anisimova 6-4, 6-3.

Barty is aiming to be the first Australian woman to win her home Grand Slam title since 1978 and has gone through the first four rounds without dropping a set.

Anisimova, coming off a third-round upset over defending champion Naomi Osaka, broke Barty's opening service game of the second set — a first for the tournament — but the two-time major winner responded by taking six of the last seven games.



Rafael Nadal of Spain celebrates his win over Adrian Mannarino of France in their fourth round match at the Australian Open tennis championships in Melbourne, Australia, Sunday, Jan. 23, 2022.

Associated Press

ed by taking six of the last seven games.

Barty beat Anisimova in the semifinals of the French Open in 2019 on the way to winning her first Grand Slam title and won her second at Wimbledon last year.

She'll next play No. 21-seeded Jessica Pegula, who beat fifth-seeded Maria Sakkari 7-6 (0), 6-3.

He shares the men's record of 20 major titles with Federer and Djokovic. □

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Kick start the night with a great, refreshing and most delicious cocktail mixed with concoctions before the grand tour of an extraordinary culinary experience. Start your journey with an exquisite appetizer such as the daily fresh made Water's Edge ceviche or maybe a world known jumbo shrimp cocktail followed by the Chef's special of seafood



such as the Spicy Caribbean Seafood pasta, Mahi Mahi or pan fried Red Snapper served with Aruban creole sauce or garlic lemon butter. For the carnivores among us there are choices of 8 ounce seasoned Filet Mignon, 12 ounce Rib Eye steak or a French Rack of Lamb seasoned and grilled to perfection. With choices of extra sides of fresh asparagus, seasonal vegetables, mashed or baked potatoes, fries or rice and beans. Combine your personal choice with one of the most exclusive wines from the great selection of international wines to compliment your dish. Kids will enjoy every item of the specially compiled kids menu. Vegetarians will enjoy the roasted vegetable pasta tossed in a light butter sauce and topped with freshly shaved parmesan cheese. As desserts the choices are wild. Homemade key lime pie, coconut flan served with caramel sauce and whipped cream or a NY cheese cake, chocolate brownie with chocolate sauce vanilla ice cream and whipped cream or a delicious oven fresh carrot cake served with orange sauce and candied pecans.



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On Wednesday's and Sunday's singer Paula Ridderstap will make you sing along to all her tunes. Thursday's and Friday's guitarist Ricky Thomas will make you find your groove. And also on Sunday's Tico Kock will make you dance away to the sounds of his steel drum. Whether you're in a romantic mood or more in a swinging mood, there is absolutely a night especially for you. In addition, the best happy hour in Aruba happens right here. Water's Edge Restaurant offers three Happy Hours daily (12 noon – 1 pm, 4 pm – 6 pm, with complimentary hors d'oeuvres served by circulating staff, and again from 9 pm – 10 pm) with all premium brands specially priced.

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